

African Banker Awards shortlist announced

The *African Banker Awards* have released the shortlist of nominees for the 2011 competition. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on the 23rd September in Washington DC, during the World Bank/IMF meetings.



The competition

The Bank of the Year award will be contested amongst African heavyweights; BMCE Bank Group of Morocco, the Ecobank group in Togo, Kenya's Equity Bank, FirstBank of Nigeria and Standard Bank Group of South Africa.

James Benoit, CEO and executive director of AfrAsia Bank in Mauritius goes head to head with Segun Agbaje, managing director at Guaranty Trust Bank in Nigeria, Martin Oduour-Otieno, CEO at Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Phillips Oduoza, group MD/CEO at United Bank of Africa in Nigeria, and last year winner James Mwangi, MD and CEO at Equity Bank in Kenya for African Banker of the Year.

Egypt has undergone a tough start to this year with the political disruptions that occurred. However, its banks were not deterred from making a significant mark on the competition with the National Bank of Egypt nominated for Best Local Bank and Socially Responsible Bank of the Year and EFG Hermes shortlisted for Deal of the Year.

Commenting on this year's entries Omar Ben Yedder, publisher of *African Banker* magazine, said, "As expected Nigeria is back as a key competitor. The Central Bank of Nigeria has taken important steps towards easing the limitations facing the market and the results have paid off as banks have proceeded with strong performances. We were delighted to see the progress and I know that coming up with a shortlist in the local bank category proved particularly difficult. The same can be said for Deal of the Year which was extremely competitive. Both reflect growing local economies and the growing interest in the region as a whole. You have some fantastic growth stories, and they reflect veritable emerging markets with burgeoning opportunities".

Celebrate excellence

The *African Banker Awards* is organised by *African Banker* magazine, IC Events and BusinessinAfrica Events. It is an annual event that takes place every year during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings and brings together over 300 key industry players and top government officials from Africa and around the world to celebrate excellence and best practices in African banking and finance.

The Awards are supported by the Corporate Council on Africa in line with its goal of championing the role of the private sector in Africa's economic development through strengthening the commercial relationship between the USA and Africa.

A distinguished and independent panel of judges, known and respected for their expertise on the African

banking and finance industry, will decide on the final winners of each award.

The event is supported by the Private Sector Operations of the African Development Bank. Mediterranean Smart Cards Company (MSCC) is the Platinum sponsor for this year's African Banker Awards. Other sponsors include Afrexim Bank, Harland Financial Solutions, Visa and Wavetec. The Ecobank Nedbank Alliance will be hosting a cocktail reception directly preceding the Awards ceremony.

Nominees

African Bank of the Year

- Banque Marocaine du Commerce Extérieur (BMCE Bank Group), Morocco
- Ecobank Transnational, Togo
- Equity Bank, Kenya
- FirstBank of Nigeria
- Standard Bank Group, South Africa

African Banker of the Year

- Segun Agbaje, MD, Guaranty Trust Bank, Nigeria
- James Benoit, CEO and executive director, AfrAsia Bank, Mauritius
- James Mwangi, MD and CEO, Equity Bank, Kenya
- Martin Oduour-Otieno, CEO, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB)
- Phillips Oduoza, group MD and CEO, United Bank of Africa, Nigeria

Best Local Bank in Africa

- Banque Commerciale du Rwanda (BCR)
- BIM - Banco Internacional de Moçambique S.A., Mozambique
- FNB Namibia Holdings
- National Bank of Egypt (NBE)
- Trust Merchant Bank, Democratic Republic of Congo

Deal of the Year

- "ConTour" Project, African Export-Import Bank, Egypt
- Sale of Orascom Telecom Tunisia, EFG-Hermes, Egypt
- Nigerian Bond Issue, FBN Capital, Nigeria
- Golden Sugar Refinery Project, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Nigeria
- Dangote Cement Deals, Vetiva Capital Management, Nigeria

Investment Bank of the Year

- EFG-Hermes, Egypt
- Fieldstone Africa, South Africa
- JP Morgan, United Kingdom
- Rand Merchant Bank, South Africa
- Renaissance Capital, South Africa

Investment Fund/Private Equity Fund of the Year

- Actis, United Kingdom
- African Development Corporation (ADC), Germany
- Frontiers Market Fund Managers, United Kingdom
- PineBridge Investments East Africa, Kenya
- Silk Invest, United Kingdom

Microfinance Institution/Project of the Year

- Amhara Credit and Saving Institution (ACSI), Ethiopia
- BRAC, Tanzania
- EB-Accion Savings & Loans Company, Ghana
- Enda Inter-Arabe, Tunisia
- Grooming People for a Better Livelihood Centre, Nigeria

Most Innovative Bank of the Year

- BIM - Banco Internacional de Moçambique S.A., Mozambique
- Diamond Bank, Nigeria
- Equity Bank, Kenya
- FirstBank of Nigeria
- Kenya Post Office Savings Bank

Socially Responsible Bank of the Year

- BIM - Banco Internacional de Moçambique S.A., Mozambique
- Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), South Africa
- Fidelity Bank, Nigeria
- Guaranty Trust Bank, Nigeria
- National Bank of Egypt (NBE)

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